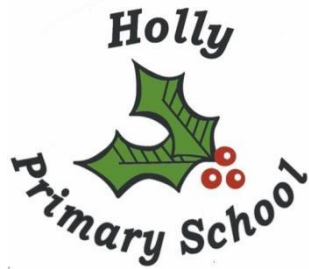


Welcome to



Foundation Stage



If you were to visit the Foundation Stage at Holly Primary School, on any day of the week, you would always find a welcoming atmosphere.

You will meet a group of happy, motivated children who are involved in a wide range of exciting activities, together with a cheerful staff in pleasant, excellently resourced, and spacious surroundings.



This booklet aims to give you an insight into the way we work in the Foundation Stage at Holly Primary School.

It will give you an idea of the different ways in which the children work together and the partnership that we seek to create with you.



Our Curriculum

The curriculum is a structured play-based curriculum.

It follows the DfES Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage as it states in the document:

“The Foundation Stage is about developing key learning skills such as listening, speaking, concentration, persistence and learning to work together and cooperate with other children. It is also about developing early communication, literacy and numeracy skills that will prepare children for key stage one of the National Curriculum.”

(Qualification and Curriculum Authority, 2000)

Our provision is therefore based on:

- ◆ Play
- ◆ Talk
- ◆ Building confidence
- ◆ Active learning
- ◆ Independent enquiry
- ◆ Co-operation
- ◆ Exploration and investigation
- ◆ Social relationships
- ◆ Involving adults to support and challenge learning.



Our Principles

Our basic principles are

that we should:

- ◆ Help children to make an effective transition from home to school.
- ◆ Provide a secure, broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum.
- ◆ Enable children to learn and develop the skills, attitudes and understanding that prepare them for Year One and beyond.
- ◆ Ensure that all children make good progress in line with their developing abilities and achieve high standards.

that parents will:

- ◆ Feel welcome and involved.
- ◆ Understand the Foundation Stage and the principles behind it.
- ◆ Support their children in all areas of learning.
- ◆ Contribute to the group whenever they can.

that children will:

- ◆ Feel happy and secure.
- ◆ Be interested in what they are doing.
- ◆ Be engaged in practical activity, enquiry and purposeful play.
- ◆ Consolidate their learning through practice, talk and reflection.



A week in Foundation

We aim to make every day an interesting one for all our children. During each day, your child will be involved in a range of different learning opportunities. These are explained on the following few pages.

Child-initiated play

Time is set aside each day for your child to take part in activities which they choose for themselves. This enables them to become independent people who can make decisions, select equipment, ask questions, organise themselves and co-operate with others. In the early stages, children will need support as they make friends and get to know the environment. As they get more confident, they are encouraged to choose more carefully and work on more ambitious, longer-term ideas.

During these times the following activities are available.

- ◆ Mathematical activities
- ◆ Writing and drawing
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Sand and/or water
- ◆ Modelling
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Tabletop games
- ◆ Imaginative play
- ◆ Sharing books
- ◆ Outdoor activities Including large scale activities of the above and wheeled toys.
- ◆ Technological activities Including:



- * I pads
- * Interactive whiteboard
- * Programmable toys

Teacher Led Sessions

At the start of the morning and afternoon sessions, the children sit together in their classes for registration. Then they take part in either Little Wandle Phonics or White Rose Maths.

Teacher led sessions give children the opportunity to develop their confidence to speak to a smaller number of people as well as receive attention that is more individual.

Forest Fun Sessions

Each week the children experience outdoor learning in our wonderful school grounds. This includes;

Pond dipping

Den Building

Bird watching

Mini beast investigation

Mud kitchen

Story chair and listening log activities.

Scavenger hunts

Children's learning is outdoors for a full morning or afternoon session and therefore they will need suitable clothing for the weather.

At other times during the day, the children will take part in teacher led activities. This is a time when a particular skill can be taught or assessed.

Sometimes the children may be playing a game to find out how to order numbers or to find out about rhyming words. They may also learn how to organise themselves for painting and other activities so that when they are working independently they will have the confidence to choose and use the activity to their full potential.



Book Times

Stories and books are a key feature of life in the Foundation Stage. A lot of our themes are based around the books that we read.

Throughout the week, your children will experience a range of different book activities.

- ◆ They will look at books with their friends and bring a book home to share with you.
- ◆ They will share non-fiction books as part of our topic work.
- ◆ They will share books in small groups called 'guided reading', where all the children share and discuss the same book.
- ◆ They will read books on their own or in a relaxed way with another adult
- ◆ They will be rewarded for the times they read at home by achieving reading stars which are calculated from their reading diaries.
- ◆ **Share a book with parent's** event happens every Thursday morning at the start of the day.

The children will need a Holly book bag (not a rucksack) It needs to come to school with your child every day.

Hall Times

Throughout the week, our children visit the hall. Activities include:

- ◆ Circle games and parachute work
- ◆ Singing with the school's pianist
- ◆ Small apparatus work
- ◆ Team games
- ◆ Using musical instruments
- ◆ Large PE apparatus
- ◆ Drama and dance

By the end of the week the children have encountered a whole range of experiences, some new, some familiar favourites, all of which help to prepare them for transferring to Key Stage One.

Parents are actively encouraged to become a part of the life in our Foundation Stage. We feel that the relationships we build with you, as parents and caregivers, in these early days are vital to the success of your child's education in the longer term.

School Uniform Available from the Schoolwear Centre

Our school uniform is:

- ◆ Black or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- ◆ White shirt or blouse
- ◆ Blue/white dresses may be worn in summer
- ◆ Smooth soled shoes
- ◆ A school sweatshirt or cardigan
- ◆ Wellies



Children need a warm coat every day

When children are full time, F2, they will need a named PE kit at school

- ◆ White Tee shirt
- ◆ Blue Shorts



School Milk

If you would like your child to have milk register for Free milk at www.coolmilk.com/register

We really enjoy working with your children and want to make everything easy to enable us to work together.

If you would like to know more about our Foundation Stage, please contact us at any time to make arrangements to pop in and see us for yourself.

Head Teacher: Duncan White

Deputy Head Sophie McGuinness

Foundation Team Leader: Julia Mayhew

Telephone: 01623 477280

Web: www.holly.notts.sch.uk

Session Times

Nursery (F1)

8:50 – 11:50 am

OR

12:30 – 3:30 pm

Reception (F2)/Full time nursery

8:50 – 11:30 am

and

12:30 – 3:30 pm

www.holly.notts.sch.uk